

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 215988

62
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
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S/S-O:SSTEINER
NEA:EABINGTON

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P 312054Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 215988

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 4515 ACTION SECSTATE AUG 31.

QUOTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 4515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IR, MO
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN NEED FOR F-5A'S AGAINST IRAQI AIR THREAT

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN ON JORDAN
AIR DEFENSE, KING SAID HE WISHED ME TO REPORT THAT JORDAN
HAS RECEIVED SENSITIVE INFORMATION THAT IRAQIS HAVE
TARGETTED 10 DIFFERENT SITES IN JORDAN FOR AIR ATTACK IN
CASE THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE AREA
(PRESUMABLY RELATING TO THE CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION)
SHOULD BRING ABOUT AN INTER-ARAB CONFLICT.

2. I WAS CAREFUL TO PROBE FURTHER ON THIS POINT AND
CLARIFIED WITH HIM THAT KING WAS RAISING THIS POINT

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MORE TO ILLUSTRATE JORDAN'S URGENT NEED FOR AN AIR

DEFENSE SYSTEM RATHER THAN INDICATING THAT HE HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT IRAQIS WERE CONTEMPLATING AN IMMINENT ATTACK ON JORDAN.

3. KING HUSSEIN THEN SAID THAT, IN THIS CONNECTION HE WOULD BE TELLING MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR (WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE TO SEE KING) THAT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, JORDAN WAS NOT RPT NOT IN A POSITION TO TRANSFER THE 20 F-5A'S TO MOROCCO THAT JORDAN HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE KING DID SHOW GENUINE CONCERN OVER THE INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING IRAQI BATTLE PLAN, THIS INFO DOES PROVIDE KING A CONVENIENT WAY TO TURN DOWN THE MOROCCANS ON THE F-5A TRANSFER, SINCE KING HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR A PRETEXT FOR DOING SO FOR SOME WEEKS NOW.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS TO DIA, RABAT, TEHRAN AND BAGHDAD.
SUDDARTH
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

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